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02-277

27 February 2003

Michael Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Confirmed

MAR 21 2003

Distribution Center

Dear Sir:

Please register this letter as a vote against the FCC authorizing an increase in the concentration of media ownership. In my experience, allowing one company or few companies to control most of the media in any one market leads to monopolistic practices and equally important, smothering of the independent point of view.

An offending company that comes to mind is Clear Channel Communications. I know of one seven-radio-station market where they have reportedly fenced in the sole independent station by giving sub-par treatment to any advertiser that dares to also advertise on that independent station. The procedure is subtle to avoid prosecution, but the message is clear to the local merchants.

I do not consider the argument that there is no need for diversity in any one media, because individuals have access to many media. Each media, television, radio, cable, newspapers and the Internet, tends to have its own market and core audience. For example, in my opinion, people that get their news from television often do not listen to radio or surf the Internet. Each medium in each market needs to be set up to encourage the exploration of alternative views. Moreover, eye opening investigative journalism is rarely the product of a major corporate entity, because it invariably has a vested interest in maintaining the status quo.

Bottom line... I do not know how to remove political bias from the judgmental decisions of when and where a specific merger would result in an excessive concentration of media ownership. Each situation is different and that is why we have commissions and committees to make those judgements. If every situation could be resolved by a formula, a computer could make the decision. The FCC needs to be willing to step up to the plate and say that it has been empowered by the people to make certain decisions; it should not have to justify whether or not 30% or 35% or 50% or market constitutes an excessive concentration.

Very truly yours,


Michael Ernstoff

EX PARTIAL OR LATE FILED

02-277

2/8/03

Mr. Michael Powell
Chairman, FCC,
445 12th St., SW,
Washington D.C. 20554

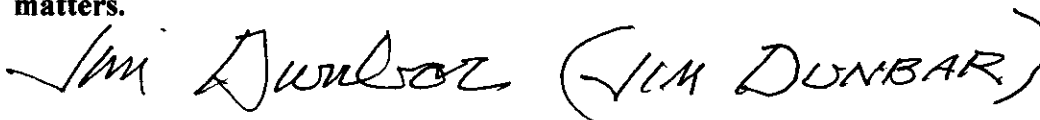
Confirmed
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Distribution Center

Dear Chairman Powell,

We the undersigned are concerned about changes soon to be reviewed by the FCC that, if adopted, we fear will lessen regulations in the telecommunications industry and reduce our choices in mass communications. Our concern is that if the proposed changes are adopted a few powerful conglomerates will control the flow of electronic information that encompass virtually everything from internet access to programming offered by radio and television stations.

Some of the provisions you and your fellow board members will be examining will determine the number of broadcast outlets one company can own, whether a company can own newspapers and television stations in the same market and what choices computer users will have in getting online. Taken as a whole, we feel further de-regulation is not a good thing (consider the disastrous affect it has had on the airline industry) and less is not more.

We hope you will communicate our concerns to other members of the commission and let us know what opportunity there will be for public discussion of these vital matters.

 (JIM DUNBAR)

The Opinion Exchange discussion Group
San Mateo Senior Center,
2645 Alameda de las Pulgas
San Mateo, Calif., 94403

We agree!

Edythe Ansel
Shirley Rosenberg
Robert Rosenberg

Mary Stinson

Marie Throuell

V. Jean Vortoe

Mary Loomis

Cecile Gordon

Pat Wolf

Shirley Horne

Elna MacArthur

Joseph Aftel

John Aftel

Joan M. Berens

Gido Halli

Barbara J. Lingher

Mary Druett

Ellen Maguire

Geraldine C. Rodgers

Frank Huttenz

Helen Epstein

Shirley Taylor
Ann Lindholm
Madeleine Anderson
Cat Cunningham
Frances Stewart
Carol Seltman
Marilyn Thayer

June Hoffman

Jordan Anthony

John Anthony

Irene A. Walker

Skippy Eckler

Tom Malaspina

Virginia Malaspina

Dorothy Andreozzi

Robert Andreozzi

Carol Parsons

Pat Bow Fortman

Tom Phillips

Svetlana Kim

Mary Cragle

Frances M. Foster

Janice Donunge

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

23 Rainbow Trail
Vernon, CT 06066

February 27, 2003

Michael Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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MAR 21 2003

Distribution Center

Dear Mr. Powell;

I strongly object to the repeal of the cross-ownership rule that is being considered by the FCC.

I see no possible way in which the public will be better served by common ownership of a television station and newspaper in the same market. We have an example of this in Connecticut already, where the Tribune Co. of Chicago owns the Hartford Courant, a newspaper, and two Hartford TV stations, in violation of the existing law.

This should not be allowed to continue and the current law should not be changed to accommodate them.

Far too much consolidation, of the communications industry, has been allowed by the FCC in the past. It must stop now.

I am sending copies of this letter to my two Senators and my Congressman.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature, likely of Dale C. Ritton, consisting of stylized cursive letters.

Dale C. Ritton

EX PARTE OR LATE FILL

02-377

3336 Foxford Court, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30340
February 28, 2002

Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington D. C. 20554

Confirmed

MAR 21 2003

Dear Mr. Powell:

Distribution Center

I wish to express my vehement opposition to any greater media ownership concentration. A government moving toward a totalitarian state obviously would prefer the greater control of the airways that such media concentration would facilitate. This is what many citizens of the United States fear today, as police state measures have been instigated, and more are being proposed in our country, beyond any ever imagined in an ostensibly democratic society. (Read The Patriot Act and the proposed Patriot Act II being floated).

Using your commissions professed goals: of promoting diversity, localism, and competition, I find these goals provide a compelling argument for maintaining the current laws restricting greater media concentration. Evidence is already plentiful of what happens when a company like Clear Channel Communications gobbles up 1200 radio stations, wresting them from locals with monopolistic maneuvers. There are now 30 percent fewer station owners than there were before the FCC eliminated its rules on radio ownership in 1996. Local coverage and influence is gone, as the same canned generic spots are flooded into numerous markets where they lack relevance, and homogenization occurs, while diversity disappears. Any monopolistic enterprise can under-price, even if only temporarily, to decimate competition, as many previous station owners can attest. Thus, the opposite of free market forces prevail, as competition is destroyed, rather than promulgated!

Courts should rely on historic evidence of what has occurred in similar situations, i.e. radio, when greater media concentration into fewer hands has been allowed. This should enable you to win a court case, if challenged.

Yours truly,

Ruth A. Carter

Ruth A. Carter